(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the stillwel road is highly useful as land route for commerce between our country and Myanmar and China; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to develop this route for commercial purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The possibility of increasing trade between India and Bangladesh is discussed and reviewed from time to time during high level bilateral consultations. Such consultations were held during the Commerce Secretary level trade review Talks in December, 1998 and during the visit of Commerce Minister of Bangladesh to India in May, 1999. The issues discussed in these meetings include ways and means to increase bilateral trade, improvement of infrastructural facilities, promotion of joint ventures etc.

(c) and (d) The Stillwel road may be useful as a land route for trade with Myanmar and China provided a stretch of around 300 KM in Myanmar is developed and made motorable by that Government.

Paid-up Capital of ECGC

327. SHRI PREMCHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has a paid-up capital of Rs. 100 crores;

(b) whether it has against it pending claims over Rs. 500 crores; and

(c) if so, how Government plan to provide guarantees in future against export securitisation for large volume exports, commitment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The paid-up capital of ECGC as on date is Rs. 280 crores.

(b) The net estimated liability of the Corporation in respect of claims preferred but not paid up to the close of the immediate fiscal year (1998-99) stood at Rs. 154.66 crores. As on 31.3.1999 ECGC had Rs. 271.48 crores in its "Reserve of Unexpired Risks" and the Corporation is confident of meeting all its claim obligations out of its own resources.

(c) As regards large volume exports commitment, the Corporation shall be underwriting risks within its own financial capacity and in accordance with its risk perception.

Setting up of Industries in Kerala

328. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of industries/factories established in the State of Kerala as compared to the other States of the country during the last five years and till date in view of the economic and industrial development of the State;

(b) whether Government have formulated any new policy to set up industries in Kerala on priority basis;

(c) if so, what are the details of various proposals received from the private sector; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) During the period from 1995 to 1999, Kerala accounted for a little over 2% of the industrial investment intentions implemented in the country.

(b) to (d) With the announcement of Industrial Policy Statement 1991 the Central Government has embarked upon a policy of deregulation and liberalisation which is applicable to all States and Union Territories including Kerala. In such an environment it is the perception of the entrepreneur regarding availability of supportive infrastructure, trained manpower and overall business environment that determines of the entrepreneurs for a particular State or Union Territory.

Growth Centres Functioning in Assam

329. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growth centres functioning at present in the State of Assam;

(b) the number of growth centres proposed to be set up in the State during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the amount allocated by Government for the same; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?